

me in that letter, dated August 20, last, that he has had advices that the English of Canada are making efforts to get together an expedition with the various numerous Indian tribes of the upper Mississippi and attack our possessions under the direction of the famous interpreter and leader, Langlade, as captain.⁸⁹ The latter on May 26th, 1780, covered the invasion made by the Englishmen, Esse, against the said posts where a terrible massacre was made, although the English were driven out.

As soon as the American commandant of Peoria, Juan Miller,⁹⁰ repeated it to him [De Lassus] and confirmed the news by proving that he had kept back by presents of liquor the collars (girdles made by woven beads which serves as credentials to the Indian messengers in order to convoke the tribes when one attempts to declare war) which were passing among the Indians, [De Lassus] sent a cask of brandy to meet Miller's expense. By such presents, the Indians will continue to maintain good relations with us; if at the same time also the above-mentioned

following October, materially aiding the new administration; he then joined his regiment in Pensacola, whence he was sent to command at Baton Rouge. Resigning from the army in 1810, he again lived in St. Louis (1816-27), and returned from there to New Orleans, where he died in 1843.—Ed.

⁸⁹ This news appears to have been founded on a rumor, which had no basis of fact. There is nothing in the British archives, as far as published, that would indicate such design; see, however, *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xv, pp. 24, 25; and *St. Clair Papers*, ii, 498, where it is stated that the British are at the bottom of the restlessness among the tribes, and inciting them to attack the Spanish. Delassus seems to have sent his brother, Jacques St. Vrain, then in command of the gunboats on the Mississippi, on a precautionary expedition towards Prairie du Chien; see Billon, *Annals of St. Louis*, pp. 365, 370.—Ed.

⁹⁰ Probably this was Jean du Moulin, who in 1800 was appointed commandant of the militia of St. Clair County; see *St. Clair Papers*, ii, p. 495. He was a native of Switzerland, who settled at Cahokia some time before 1787; see *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, ii, index. His residence was at Cahokia, but he seems to have had many relations with Peoria. A man of education, and of a commanding presence, he acted after 1790 as judge of the court of common pleas. He died at his residence near Falling Spring, in 1808.—Ed.